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FARM PROGRAM news

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FARMERS CAN HELP
STOP FLOOD DAMAGE - Do you know-----

That every year we are still losing around 500,000 acres of our farmland through erosion?

That each year the Mississippi River carries some 730 million tons of soil into the Gulf of Mexico?

That the cost of our annual erosion, in measurable physical damages alone, will easily exceed a billion dollars?

And that, while farm urban property damaged in the Midwestern floods during the month of June can be repaired, and destroyed crops can be replanted--next year if not this -- the productive soil being washed down the Des Moines, Iowa, Grand, Missouri, and Mississippi Rivers cannot be replaced?

Farmers can reduce soil damage and cut down flood crests through wider use of measures which stop erosion and slow down the runoff of water into swollen streams. For flood control begins in the fields and pastures, up on the watersheds back from the stream channels.

Practices encouraged under the Agricultural Conservation Program which help check water runoff include contour tillage and cultivation, contour strip cropping, terracing, grassed waterways, stubble-mulch farming, cover crops, range and pasture management, construction of dams and reservoirs, tree planting in gullies for erosion control, and other farm woodland management.

WORLD WOOL SUPPLIES LARGE
DESPITE LOWER PRODUCTION

- Despite a world wool production lower in 1947 than in any year since 1935, supplies -- accumulated in wool-producing countries during the war -- will remain unusually large, according to the Department of Agriculture.

World production in 1947 is estimated to be 2 percent less than in 1946 and 7 percent less than the 1936-40 average. World stocks on July 1, 1947 are estimated to be 4.5 billion pounds compared with 5 billion pounds a year earlier.

The Commodity Credit Corporation support program on wool ended on April 15. Average prices received by farmers for wool were 3.5 cents lower in May than a year earlier. Reductions up to 4 cents were general in the 11 Western States.

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FARM PROGRAM NEWS

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CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
DEC 2 1947
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FLOOD PREVENTION

BEGINS AT HOME - Present floods in the Midwest have brought out in a spectacular way the fact that erosion is continuing in this country.

Estimates are that we are losing around 500 thousand acres of our farm land through erosion every year.

More and more farmers and others are realizing that erosion-controlling measures in the uplands where the rains first fall on the ground are among the first steps to take in flood control. Farmers and others in Mills County, Iowa, observed the effect of these measures in two small watersheds. In one of those watersheds the farmers had worked together in terracing their lands, grassing the waterways, farming on the contour. In the other, none of those conservation practices had yet been adopted. Soil losses were nine times as much where no conservation measures were used.

Practically all of the conservation practices of the ACP program help in controlling the water where it falls...contour tillage and cultivation, terracing, strip cropping, grassed waterways, trashy fallow, cover crops, range improvement, pasture renovation, construction of small dams, reforestation of steep and gullied land...so that the water will be led into the soil reservoir instead of flowing off the land.

WORLD PLANT

FOOD SUPPLIES - If we take more out of our soils than we put back, ultimately we'll come to the end of the plant foods in the soil. The plant foods usually exhausted first are nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash.

(MORE)

ΕΥΣΤΑΘΙΟΣ ΜΑΡΟΥ

If the tremendous supplies in croplands can be exhausted, how long will replacement supplies last? R. M. Salter, Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering gives an encouraging answer.

He says that the amount of nitrogen-bearing fertilizer is limited only by the capacity of the plants to reclaim nitrogen from the atmosphere. Therefore, if we want more nitrogen-bearing fertilizer, all we need to do is to build more plants to reclaim it.

In figuring the amounts of phosphate and potash, he assumed that these fertilizers would be applied to an acreage of land large enough to produce an adequate diet for mankind...that the phosphate would be applied at an average rate 8 times present average applications...and potash would be applied at nearly 18 times the present rate.

At those rates of application the present known reserves of phosphate would last 2 thousand years; known reserves of potash would last 500 years.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH

IN MEXICO - The President of Mexico, Miguel Aleman, is wholeheartedly behind the campaign of eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in his country. In a three-day tour of the areas where eradication operations are being carried out he said that foot-and-mouth disease is the foremost problem of the Republic. He also indicated that the means being followed in the eradication campaign represent the only methods by which the disease can be driven from the country.

COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE OUT- LINES COTTON RESEARCH PROGRAM

- The average cotton farm worker operated about three-fifths as much cropland and received three-fifths as large a gross income from farm production in 1944 as did the average U. S. farm worker. So the main objective of a research and marketing program for cotton should be to develop

(MORE)

farm income opportunities for the South comparable to those of other regions of the United States. This was pointed out in a report to E. A. Meyer, administrator of the Research and Marketing Act of 1946, by the Cotton Advisory Committee.

About one-half the farm workers in the United States in 1945 were in the 13 States comprising the Southern research region. Only one-fourth the total cropland in the country was in these States, and only 16 percent of this was used for cotton. However, cotton accounts for three-fifths of the cash receipts from all crops and about two-fifths of all cash farm income in the 10 principal cotton-producing States. On many farms it accounts for almost all of the cash farm income.

On the average, cotton requires about 5 times as much man labor as wheat and $3\frac{1}{2}$ times as much as corn to produce a given gross income. This need for large amounts of man labor in growing cotton is one of the reasons for the relatively low output and income of the Southern farm worker.

To attack this problem, the committee recommends as one step the development of machinery reduced in size and cost, since 84 percent of all cotton growers produced 10 bales or less of cotton. These growers farmed 56 percent of the cotton acreage.

In addition to research in production, the recommended program embraces the broad fields of ginning and marketing raw cotton and cottonseed, domestic utilization of cotton and cottonseed, foreign market outlets, and price and supply analyses.

large income opportunities for the South comparable to those of other regions of the United States. This was pointed out in a report to H. A. Henry, Administrator of the Research and Marketing Act of 1946, by the Cotton Advisory Committee. About one-half the farm workers in the United States in 1945 were in the 12 States comprising the Southern cotton region. Only one-fourth the total crop of cotton in the country was in these States, and only 10 percent of this was used for export. However, cotton accounts for three-fifths of the cash receipts from all crops and about two-thirds of all cash from farms in the 12 principal cotton-producing States. On many farms it accounts for almost all of the cash farm income.

On the average, cotton requires about 2 times as much water as wheat and 2 1/2 times as much as corn to produce a given gross income. This need for large amounts of water in growing cotton is one of the reasons for the relatively low output and income of the Southern farm worker.

To attack this problem, the committee recommends as one step the development of machinery required in the cotton belt, since 50 percent of all cotton produced in the United States is grown in the cotton belt. These growers have 25 percent of the cotton output.

In addition to research in production, the recommended program includes the development of growing and marketing new cotton and cottonseed, domestic utilization of cotton and cottonseed, foreign market outlets, and price and supply controls.

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PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION
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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

SOIL CONSERVATION
WORK RETARDED

- "Regardless of the outcome of the Congressional controversy over the Agricultural Conservation Appropriation, much ground will be lost," G. V. Hemphill, Chairman of the State PMA Committee, remarked when he received information that the Senate had acted favorably toward the Program.

"Because of the uncertainty of funds, many dirt-moving contractors have gone out of business and others have left the State in search of road-building and other construction work," he continued. "According to reports from eastern states, the manufacturers of liming materials are converting their plants to other uses. This gives us a pretty good idea of what will happen if the Government fails to provide funds to assist farmers and ranchers in the preservation of our soil and water resources," Mr. Hemphill concluded.

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SCHOOL PROGRAM FEEDS
GERMAN CHILDREN

- Around $3\frac{1}{2}$ million German children are receiving a supplemental "meal" through the Military Government's School Feeding Program, reports William C. Ockey, Associate Director of the Production and Marketing Administration's Food Distribution Programs Branch. Ockey has just returned from a 90-day trip to Germany, where he helped set up the program in American and British occupied zones.

According to Ockey, "sufficient food was made available to feed in schools the maximum of 3,550,000 children between the ages of 6 and 18 years. The daily supplemental meal consists usually of a serving of about 1 pint of soup, porridge, or another similar item, and contains approximately 350 calories per serving.

"This supplemental food, which is served ration free to the children, has been a great benefit to them even in the short time in which the program has

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been operating. It started in a few schools on April 14, and by June 21 the entire quota of 3,550,000 children received the meal. Teachers have said that after 6 to 8 weeks they noticed definite improvement in attentiveness, ability to learn, and increased weight.

"Needless to say, there are practically no absences from school except through sickness, and in these cases arrangements have been made for the parents of the sick children to come to school and get the food for them."

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MEAT SUPPLIES EQUAL
TO LAST YEAR'S

- Consumers can look forward to as large a supply of meat this year as last when supplies were well above most war years, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Meat supplies per person in 1946 averaged 153 pounds, compared with 134 pounds in 1937-41. While total meat output in the first quarter of 1947 was moderately less than a year earlier, greater production in the second quarter brought supplies for the 6 months to about the same level as 1946.

Meat production probably will be larger this summer than in 1946. If the cattle slaughter continues unusually large, meat output may be almost as large this fall as a year earlier. Reduced pork, lamb, and mutton production was about offset by increased beef and veal production.

Record or near-record consumer incomes in June created a strong domestic demand for meat. Prices for meat animals in mid-June averaged 2 percent below the March record, but 47 percent above a year earlier, when price ceilings were in effect.

The prospective record slaughter of cattle and calves for 1947 will result in a sharp reduction in numbers on farms. Cattle feeding in 1948 probably will be below the high rate of the current year. As a result, beef and veal output is expected to be reduced in 1948.

(MORE)

The 1947 spring pig crop is slightly more than last year, and farmers' intentions indicate that the fall pig crop will be 6 percent above 1946. Although more pigs probably will be slaughtered during the first 9 months of 1948 than this year, slaughter weights will probably be below this year's high average unless the 1947 corn crop turns out better than now expected.

WORLD WILL NEED

U. S. WHEAT - The Northern Hemisphere -- particularly the North American continent -- is the world's bright spot this year so far as wheat production is concerned. Canada expects to equal or exceed its 1946 crop of 420 million bushels. And the July 10 USDA report from U. S. wheat farmers added another 25 million bushels to bring the current estimate for this country's bin-busting 1947 crop to 1,435,551,000 bushels. A combination of record yields and all-time-high acreage, the new estimate is based on actual harvest reports from early winter wheat areas and improved prospects in the Pacific Northwest and the Northern Plains spring wheat area.

But in the rest of the world prospects for wheat farmers are not so rosy. As reported by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, several other countries will harvest wheat crops larger than their 1946 production. These include Canada, with prospects for equalling or exceeding the 1946 crop of 420 million bushels; Russia, over 1946 levels but still struggling to overcome wartime handicaps and loss of productive acreage; Australia, with seeded acreage of 15 million acres substantially above recent years; and Argentina, where seeding is proceeding "under favorable conditions."

In Europe, however, this year's wheat crop may be as much as 10 percent below last year's 1,350 million bushel harvest -- considerably under the prewar average production of 1,670 million bushels. Flooding in the Spanish Peninsula, poor spring weather in Germany, and severe drought in Balkan nations will keep Europe's need for grain imports high throughout 1947-48.

Total production of wheat in both Asia and Africa is expected to be near the 1946 level, while winter damage has reduced prospects for the Scandinavian countries. Winterkill, excessive spring rains, and floods have curtailed spring acreage and lowered yield prospects in the United Kingdom.

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WEEKLY FARM PROGRAM NEWS

NO '48 WHEAT ALLOTMENTS, GOALS - Farmers can make their 1948 wheat production plans with assurance that acreage allotments and marketing quotas will not be put in effect. The decision was announced by Undersecretary of Agriculture N. E. Dodd on July 15, as required by the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938.

USDA determined that the world food situation and the interests of both U. S. consumers and producers justify keeping the acreage allotment and marketing quota provisions of the law inactive for the fifth successive crop.

Acreage allotments were last established for the 1943 wheat crop, but were removed before harvest time because of war-induced demands for food. A national wheat acreage goal will be included in the Department of Agriculture's 1948 food production recommendations to farmers to be announced later this year.

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TRANSPORTATION

TROUBLE FOR WHEAT - The torrent of wheat pouring from Southwest farms has swept away the backlog of box cars the railroads had assembled to help handle the marketing of the 1947 crop. Early in June, the box car "bank" held a reserve of 17,000 grain cars, compared with 7,000 on hand last June.

Incomplete reports from Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas county agricultural conservation committees show nearly 4 million bushels of grain on the ground at shipping points and 18 million bushels on the ground at farms.

A hopeful note is the report that June 1947 freight car production was the highest monthly out-turn in 5 years. But as harvest activity spreads across the wheat belt from the early area in the Southwest, the battle of transportation will become a major engagement in getting the 1947 wheat crop under cover and on the way to market.

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MEAT EXPORT ALLOCATION ANNOUNCED

- In view of current meat prices and strong domestic demand, U. S. export allocations of meat during the current quarter-year are being restricted to countries which normally depend on this country for essential supplies.

The July-September allocation for commercial export amounts to 16,876,000 pounds of meat and meat products -- about one-third of 1 percent of the 4.9 billion expected production during the quarter. This compares with about 155 million pounds allocated for April-June.

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WHITE SUMS UP

COTTON'S STATUS - The status of cotton as a world fiber was summed up by E.D. White, Assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture, at the recent cotton Congress, Dallas, Texas. Here are highlights of the speech.

An important step in helping cotton to keep its leadership here and abroad, is continuation of the various credit arrangements by which near-bankrupt nations can get the cotton for their idle spindles.

Shortly after hostilities ended, China, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Finland were granted Export-Import Bank loans, for a period of 15 to 24 months at $2\frac{1}{2}$ percent, with which to buy U. S. cotton. These countries have already used practically all their credit, except Hungary.

Besides these nations which received special cotton loans, four others -- England, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands -- have received loans for general rehabilitation purposes. As of May 31 the U. S. had shipped or committed itself to ship around one million bales of cotton under this program.

Then there are the arrangements with Germany and Japan. The last stocks held by the Commodity Credit Corporation, totalling another million bales, were sent to these countries. Three-fifths of the textiles produced were to serve as security. These textiles are being sold by the U. S. to needy countries which have no manufacturing facilities. Any surplus will be returned to military authorities to offset costs of occupation. Remaining two-fifths are to be left in these countries for use in maintenance and rehabilitation programs. Cash sales in excess of the amount needed to repay U. S. may run around 150 million dollars. The program has made the occupation job in Germany and Japan easier because it has created employment and thus decreased unrest.

Mechanization that meets the needs of small producers is especially needed. Half the U. S. cotton acreage is worked by farmers who produce 10 bales or less. While mechanization is advancing...some phases of it are lagging.

The cotton industry must gear itself to meet the rising competition from the synthetic fibers, such as rayon, nylon, vinyon, aralac, saran, and glass fibers. Cotton must be able to compete with these synthetics both in price and quality.

The U. S. now has a good base on which to start. We are rid of our price-depressing surpluses. We have regained -- temporarily at least -- a sizable portion of the foreign markets. We have gotten a post-war advantage over synthetic fibers in many foreign countries...through research, mechanization, and hard work, the cotton industry should be able to meet this competition and move ahead into a long period of prosperity.

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PRICE-SUPPORT EGG PURCHASES

TO BE STOPPED - Price-support buying of dried and frozen eggs will be discontinued by the Department of Agriculture after July. Demand for the rest of the year

is expected to be sufficient to keep farm prices for eggs at levels which will not require Governmental price supports.

Producer prices for eggs for the first 7 months of 1947 reflect an average of 93 percent of parity. Support of egg prices is required under the Steagall Act at "not less than 90 percent of parity" on an annual basis.

Production of eggs for the last 6 months of 1947 is likely to be slightly heavier than for the same period last year. At the same time, cold storage holdings of shell eggs on July 1 were fully $4\frac{1}{2}$ million cases smaller than a year ago, and commercial holdings of frozen eggs are about 30 percent lighter.

Should price-support purchases be necessary in the next few months, such operations might be carried on through the purchase of quality shell eggs.

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